

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinji et al. (JP 11-213891) in view of Oono (JP 3-75596) and Kazuya et al. (JP 07-162180). It is respectfully submitted, however, that Applicants' claims are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Shinji discloses, in his Fig. 2, aging room 2 for aging panels that is applied to tray 11. At paragraph [0023], Shinji discloses including a fan in aging room 2 for cooling aging room during the aging period.

Oono discloses, in Figs. 1 and 2, a cooling structure of a circuit board including fan 6 positioned below the edge of circuit board 3 and air flow guide 2 for controlling the density of air provided to circuit board 3.

Kazuya teaches that fan device 50 directs air parallel to the surface of printed boards 15.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... periodically changing at least one of

- a) a rate at which air is directed across a location on said plasma display panel; and
- b) a further rate at which air is directed from a fixed location to said location on said plasma display panel ...

Applicants wish to emphasize the phrase "periodically changing." The feature of periodically changing a rate at which air is directed to perform aging of a plasma display panel is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record.

Applicants' claimed feature of periodically changing air rate is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record. This feature is described in the originally filed application at page 8, line 11, page 12, line 6, page 13, line 10 and page 14, line 23. No new matter has been added.

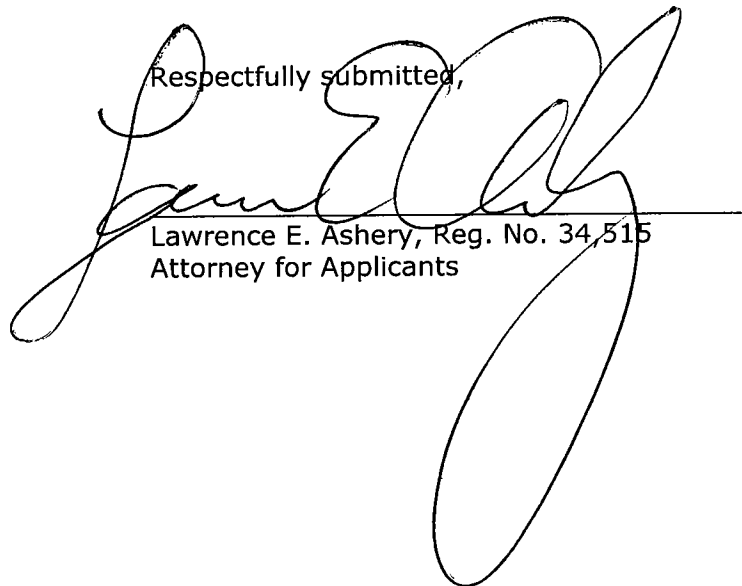
It is because of Applicants' claimed periodic changing that air stagnation is prevented. Thus, equalized temperatures are obtained.

Claim 6, while not identical to claim 1, is patentable for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1.

The dependent claims are patentable by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claims.

The rejection of claims 15 and 16 is rendered moot by the cancellation of those claims.

This application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515
Attorney for Applicants

LEA/fp

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P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

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